



PRESS RELEASE

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WEST VIRGINIA SHEEP, GOAT, AND WOOL INVENTORY

WEST VIRGINIA -- All sheep and lamb inventory in West Virginia as of January 1, 2006, was 32,000 head, up 1,000 head from January 1, 2005.

Breeding sheep and lamb inventory totaled 27,000 head on January 1, 2006, down 2,000 head from 2005. Ewes, one year and older, at 22,000 head, were down 1,000 head from 2005. Rams totaled 1,000 head, unchanged from 2005. Replacement lambs totaled 4,000 head, down 1,000 head from 2005.

Market sheep and lambs on January 1, 2006 totaled 5,000 head, up 3,000 head from January 1, 2005. Market lambs totaled 5,000 head, up 3,000 head from the previous year. Of these, 2,000 were under 65 pounds, 1,000 were 65 - 84 pounds, 1,500 were 85 - 105 pounds, and 500 were over 105 pounds.

The 2005 lamb crop totaled 28,000 head, down 1,000 head from 2004. The 2005 lambing rate was 122 per 100 ewes one year old and older on hand January 1, 2005, compared to 116 in 2004.

Shorn wool production during 2005 was 133,000 pounds, down 1 percent from 2004. Sheep and lambs shorn totaled 23,000 head, down 1,000 head from 2004. The average price paid for wool sold in 2005 was \$0.48 per pound for a total value of \$64,000 dollars, up 10 percent from \$58,000 dollars in 2004.

Meat and other goat inventory on January 1, 2006 was estimated at 19,000 head. **Milk goat** inventory was estimated at 1,400 head. **Angora goat** inventory was not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

UNITED STATES -- All sheep and lamb inventory in the United States on January 1, 2006, totaled 6.23 million head, up 2 percent from both 2005 and 2004. The inventory began increasing in 2005 and has shown two consecutive year to year increases for the first time since 1987 and 1988.

Breeding sheep inventory increased to 4.64 million head on January 1, 2006, up 2 percent from 4.53 million head on January 1, 2005. Ewes one year old and older, at 3.66 million head, were 2 percent above last year.

Market sheep and lambs on January 1, 2006, totaled 1.59 million head, down 1 percent from January 1, 2005. Market lambs comprised 95 percent of the total marketings. Twenty-seven percent were lambs under 65 pounds, 14 percent were 65 - 84 pounds, 24 percent were 85 - 105 pounds, and 35 percent were over 105 pounds. Market sheep comprised the remaining 5 percent of total marketings.

The 2005 lamb crop of 4.13 million head, was up 1 percent from 2004. The 2005 lambing rate was 115 lambs per 100 ewes one year old and older on January 1, 2005, up 2 percent from 2004.

Shorn wool production in the United States during 2005 was 37.2 million pounds, down 1 percent from 2004. Sheep and lambs shorn totaled 5.07 million head, down slightly from 2004. The average price paid for wool sold in 2005 was \$0.71 per pound for a total value of 26.3 million dollars, down 12 percent from 29.9 million dollars in 2004.

All goat inventory in the United States on January 1, 2006, totaled 2.83 million head, up 4 percent from 2005. **Breeding goat inventory** totaled 2.35 million head up 4 percent from 2005. **All market goats and kids** totaled 471,800 head, up 4 percent from a year ago. On January 1, 2006 **meat and all other goats** totaled 2.26 million head, up 5 percent from 2005. **Milk goat** inventory increased 1 percent to 288,000 head while **angora goats** were down 1 percent totaling 278,000 head. The 2005 **kid crop** totaled 1.84 million head for all goats, up 4 percent from 2004.

Mohair production in the United States during 2005 was 1.82 million pounds. **Goats and kids clipped** totaled 273,000 head. Average weight per clip was 6.7 pounds. **Mohair price** was \$2.78 per pound with a value of 5.1 million dollars.

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